Revised draft proposal - CTP for Civil Engineers

from 24 Oct 2016

(including those suggested changes from stakeholder consultation that seem to be uncontroversial)

1. *Minimum Requirements of a Common Training Framework for Civil Engineers (= for automatic recognition of Civil Engineers)*

Level 1: European ~~Chartered~~ Licenced Civil Engineer Master level

- Higher Educational Institution Master degree (EQF Level 7) or equivalent in the field of Civil Engineering
- Minimum 300 ECTS with a minimum of 70% (reduction to 50%?) technical and scientific ECTS (mathematics, natural science, technology, informatics)
- 2 years of post-graduate professional experience or professional examination ~~(in the home country)~~
- For applicants from member states in which the profession is regulated: Certification of fulfilment of the requirements for authorization/licence to provide services in the field of Civil Engineering by the competent authority – this only refers to professional requirements (e.g. education, practice, exam) and not to additional administrational requirements such as membership/registration in a professional organisation).

  For applicants from member states in which the profession is not regulated: Confirmation from the competent authority (see 2.) that the applicant has the right to provide services on the field of Civil Engineering in the home country.

  Information on professional liability insurance

Level 2: European ~~Chartered~~ Licenced Civil Engineer Bachelor level (EQF descriptors see Annex I)

- Higher Educational Institution Bachelor degree (EQF Level 6) or equivalent in the field of Civil Engineering
- Minimum 180 ECTS with a minimum of 70% (reduction to 50%?) technical and scientific ECTS (mathematics, natural science, technology, informatics)

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- 2 years of post-graduate professional experience or professional examination ~~(in the home country)~~
- For applicants from member states in which the profession is regulated: Certification of fulfilment of the requirements for authorization/licence to provide services in the field of Civil Engineering; by the competent authority – this only refers to professional requirements (e.g. education, practice, exam) and not to additional administrational requirements such as membership/registration in a professional organisation).

  For applicants from member states in which the profession is not regulated: Confirmation from the competent authority (see 2.) that the applicant has the right in his to provide services on the field of Civil Engineering in the home country.

  Information on professional liability insurance

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2. *Responsibilities in regard to the verification of fulfilment of the minimum requirements of a CTF for Civil Engineers by the applicant*

A competent authority in the home member country establishes a certificate (to be further defined) stating that **the applicant fulfils the requirements of the Common Training Framework for European Civil Engineer MSc or European Civil Engineer BSc** and that the applicant is **not subject of an occupational ban or disciplinary procedure** in the home country.

For this assessment – which is the responsibility of the home member country – the **EUR-ACE® Framework Standards and Guidelines (EAFSG) by the European Network for accreditation of Engineering Education (see Annex II)** are regarded as common orientation basis for the general programme output requirements of engineering education programmes.

PLEASE NOTE: The European Commission is still checking in which form the EAFSG can be taken over for a CTF in order to ensure easy procedures for later amendments/updates

The Project Expert Team believes that the assessment for the CTF certificate can also be done in non-regulated countries (e.g. by national coordinators, authorised professional organisations etc.) without causing considerable additional administrative costs/efforts. Nevertheless the possibility / effort of this have to be assessed by non-regulated countries. It will in this regard be necessary to further define the practical details of movement between regulated and non-regulated countries.

Further details in regard to the assessment of learning outcomes and practical methods for assessing compliance with the EAFSG could be developed in a working group (assisted by ENAEE).

3. *Procedure in case of special regional requirements in the host country*

Special regional demands (e.g. seismic engineering) **can be listed by** participating countries. In these cases applicants either have to prove – by presenting curriculum/CPD certificate – that this aspect has been sufficiently covered by his/her academic education/by former CPD measures or he/she has to attend a CPD measure within a certain time period. If a CPD requirement is listed, an adequate CPD measure has to be available. It has to be reasonable in regard to necessity and costs.

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Until the fulfilment in regard to the listed special demand is recognized by the host country, the applicant will receive automatic recognition for all fields of Civil Engineering **except** the one for which the special demand is listed.

Details on the scope and proportionality of special regional requirements that can be listed and about the practical procedure of professional access in case of special regional requirements (partial access??) need to be further developed.

4. Scope of authorization of European Civil Engineer Master level / European Civil Engineer Bachelor level in the host member country

The European Civil Engineer Master level/European Civil Engineer Bachelor level are authorized to provide the same services as the Civil Engineers of the same level in the host country.

This means that in a country where the Bachelor level is sufficient for full authorization both the European Civil Engineers Master level and the European Civil Engineers Bachelor level will have full authorization.

In a country where the Master level is required for full authorization as Civil Engineer only the European Civil Engineers Master level can get full authorization automatically. If other professions/ professional forms/professional forms with limited authorizations are existing for Civil Engineers Bachelor level in this country the European Civil Engineers Bachelor level is automatically authorized for these professions/professional forms.

European Civil Engineers Bachelor level also have the possibility **not** to apply for recognition based on the Common Training Framework for Engineers, but based on the general system of recognition according to the Professional Qualifications Directive (= individual assessment of equivalence by the host country/compensation measures if necessary) in order to get full authorization as Civil Engineer in the host country.

Recognition based on the general system according to the Professional Qualifications Directive (= individual assessment of equivalence by the host country/compensation measures if necessary) will of course still be possible for all professionals that do not fulfil the requirements of the Common Training Framework for Civil Engineers.

The project team still very much doubts if the development of common scopes of competences for the different levels of Engineers throughout Europe – as suggested by one

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of the stakeholders – is realistic. But it agrees that details on the procedure of movement between countries with only one level of Engineers and countries with more levels of engineers will have to be developed. Additionally it will offer a discussion group on at the workshop on 27 October 2016 **(WG: Two level system based on a common scope of competences/authorization?)** to go deeper into the suggestion of defining a common scope of competences.

5. Considerations of the Project Expert Team

The project team has worked through comments and points of criticism that were discussed/brought up within the stakeholder consultation. As the feedback was quite controversial, only slight amendments of the proposal were possible for the moment.

Some main topics of discussion/criticism:

- **Limitation of the proposal to Civil Engineers:** A number of stakeholders want a CTF for all Engineers, not only for Civil Engineers. The project team is in principle very much in favor of such a broad approach. Currently with the aim to reach at least basic agreements on important aspects of a proposal this does not seem realistic as broadening the approach leads to additional controversial questions (such as required percentage of regulation) . Therefore the project team still suggests a step-by-step approach. There will be the possibility to discuss this aspect at the workshop on 27 October 2016 **(WG: Individual assessment of knowledge skills and competences versus automatic recognition?)**

- **Title:** The word chartered in the title was criticized by many stakeholders based on the fact that it is already used (protected) in several countries and interpreted differently. The project team therefore decided to change it into European licensed Engineer and will offer a further discussion on the question of titles at the workshop **(WG: Two level system based on a common scope of competences/authorization?)**

- **Level system / scope of competences:** A majority of participants in the stakeholder discussion agreed with this approach, few would prefer to include the level of technicians and few would prefer a one level approach. The project team thus keeps the current system in the proposal and will offer a discussion group at the WS on 27 October to go deeper into the question of moving between members states with different level systems **(WG: Two level system based on a common scope of**

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competences/authorization?) Defining a list of authorizations/ competences for the different levels was demanded by some stakeholders, but the project team is still of the opinion that due to the fact that the scope of authorization differs so much on national level such an universally applicable list can't be established. According to the general principle of the Professional Qualifications Directive the European Civil Engineer Master level/European Civil Engineer Bachelor level should be authorized to provide the same services as the Civil Engineers of the same level in the host country. Nevertheless the project team recognizes the necessity to address in more practical detail the question of authorization based on the different levels especially for movements between countries with and without more than one levels.

- **Academic education requirement:** It is a core controversy if academic training should be compensable or not. According to 49 a 2 c of Directive 2005/36/EC - and according to the position of the EC so far - the possibility of compensation of academic training is a prerequisite for a CTF but a broad number of stakeholder, also within the ECEC (the original proposal of the project team on this had to be amended due to the EC legal opinion), are against this. A discussion group will be offered at the workshop on 27 October 2016 **(WG: Compensation of academic training (University degree or "equivalent").**

- **The requirements within the levels:** The requirements are – except the above mentioned conflict – acceptable for many stakeholders. Nevertheless there are discussions about the use of ECTS/EQF as reference systems and the application of the EUR-ACE Framework standards and guidelines for the assessment of knowledge, skills and competences. These comments do not seem to be unbridgeable in most cases but will need further and more detailed discussion also on practical methods and procedures. Additionally there is a wish to reduce the requirement for technical and scientific ECTS to 50%. A discussion group will be offered at the workshop on 27 October 2016 to develop steps to a possible commonly acceptable approach **(WG: ECTS/EQF and the application of EUR-ACE Framework standards and guidelines for assessment of knowledge, skills and competences?)**

- **Additional requirements:** There were a number of (controversial) comments on the professional experience requirements (should be abolished, extended, reduced, defined in regard to outcome) that will need further discussion in view to the acceptance of a compromise solution. The possibility to list special regional requirements has opened a lot of additional practical questions. Therefore it seems to be necessary to further develop details on the scope and proportionality of listing special regional requirements and about the practical procedure of professional

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access in such cases (partial access??). For a start a discussion group will be offered at the workshop on 27 October 2016 **(WG: Additional requirements?)**

- **Assessment and certification by home-countries:** There were several comments on potential problems of certifications and assessments especially on non-regulated countries, some of them based on the fear that for non-regulated countries the CTF might lead to more burdens instead of less. The project team believes that these fears could be eliminated by the definition of a procedure for the move between non-regulated and regulated countries. This definition procedure should be led by representatives of non-regulated countries as only they can assess practical problems that might arise for them. As a starting point a discussion group on this will be offered at the workshop on 27 October 2o16 **(WG: Assessment and certification in the home country and questions in regard to the movement between regulated/non-regulated (profession) countries?)**

- **Other comments:** There were comments that are questioning the suitability of an automatic recognition system for engineers as a whole. As it seems important to clearly differentiate the elements and advantages/disadvantages of the different recognition systems this will also be discussed at the workshop on 27 October 2016 **(WG: Individual assessment of knowledge skills and competences versus automatic recognition?)** The project team has already expressed the view that an approach with individual assessment of the host country is not acceptable for a Common Training Framework as it would not lead to automatic recognition and thus would bring more or less no added value compared to the system of general recognition currently in force.
  There was a comment on the establishment of a liability insurance requirement, but as insurance is not obligatory in all countries the project team has regarded it as sufficient to require information on the professional liability insurance of the applicant (which is required in regard to the services directive anyway, independent of the recognition system).

  The question of malpractice monitoring was also raised, but by the project team is not a direct question of the CTF requirements.

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